

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Unedited transcript

440th Meeting

Friday, 6 June 1997, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. RAO (India)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: I now declare open the 440th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Agenda item 9(b), on preparations for UNISPACE III, remains open. I have been informed that the informal consultations which have taken place have met with a degree of success and that some concrete proposals will be presented, possibly this afternoon. Therefore it seems logical to postpone our discussion of agenda item 9(b) until this afternoon, and to conclude our discussion of this item by the end of today.

As concerns agenda item 8, it was suggested that informal consultations should take place to attempt to find an acceptable wording. I believe that further time is required for these consultations, and we will thus also postpone our discussion of agenda item 8 until this afternoon.

We will therefore continue our consideration of agenda item 10, "Spin-off benefits of space technology". This item will remain open for discussion until Monday morning in order to allow the delegation of Spain the opportunity to make its presentation under this item. We will also continue and conclude our discussion of agenda item 11 today.

As I announced yesterday, if we are able to conclude our substantive work by this afternoon, we may request the Secretariat to begin their preparation of the draft report of the Committee. The draft report could then be considered on Monday morning, following the presentation by the delegation of Spain to which I have just referred.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. P. DZOUBENKO (Russian Federation)
(interpretation from Russian): As this is the first occasion upon which I have taken the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election to this important position.

My delegation added their name to the list of speakers yesterday, in order to speak under agenda item 8 today. If there is enough time, we could perhaps still do so this morning. Secondly, at this point in time my delegation has the following comment to make. We understand your desire to conclude the session as early as possible. My delegation agrees that the length of the session should not be prolonged unnecessarily, but at the same time, neither should we try to move too quickly in order to conclude our meeting on Monday. If necessary we can still work on Tuesday and Wednesday.

As concerns agenda item 8, there are various other interested delegations who are awaiting the outcome of the informal consultations on the draft working paper prepared by the German delegation. During the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, a small working group was set up to consider that document, and as a result of the work carried out in that group and to the efforts and spirit of compromise of the German delegation, this document has started to take on an acceptable form. It is possible that time still remains for a working group to be set up today, in order to make further progress. My delegation feels that we are close to reaching a compromise text, and if can formalize our working process and dedicate some time to consideration of this working paper, a solution might be reached. The German delegation is willing to be flexible and thus no major problems loom on the horizon in this respect.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not my intention to move our discussions along without giving full consideration to all agenda items. If necessary, we will certainly continue until next Wednesday.

I have the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation on my list of speakers under agenda item 8, and I will open this item for discussion this morning. I hope it may also be possible to form a working group, or hold informal consultations, to try and obtain some results on this item. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Canada.

Mr. S. LESSARD (Canada): On a point of order, my delegation also intends to make a statement under agenda item 10. It may be possible to make this statement today or it may have to wait until Monday, depending on the availability of the expert who will make the presentation. We would therefore be grateful if this option could be left open.

The CHAIRMAN: If the statement is not given today, it can be made on Monday, along with the presentation by the delegation of Spain. The distinguished representative of China has requested the floor.

Mr. HUANG Huikang (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): My delegation would like to support the proposal put forward by the delegation of the Russian Federation. A small working group should be established to consider the draft working paper presented by the German delegation to try and find a solution at this session of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: After the presentations on agenda item 8, a decision will be taken concerning the formation of a working group. If there are no further requests for clarification, we will turn to agenda item 9(b). There have been some positive results from the informal consultations which have taken place on this item, which will be presented this afternoon. If no other delegation wishes to take the floor on this item, we will continue our discussion of agenda item 9(b) this afternoon. We will now continue our discussion of agenda item 8.

Report of the Legal Subcommittee (cont.)

The CHAIRMAN: The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. P. DZIOUBENKO (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): My delegation believes that the last session of the Legal Subcommittee was one of the most positive sessions held over the last few years.

The major result achieved at that meeting was the adoption of the recommendation to include a new item

on the Subcommittee's agenda, proposed by Mexico, "Review of the status of the five international treaties on outer space". This subject is of great interest as concerns international cooperation in outer space, in light of all the changes which have taken place since the last of the five treaties was signed in 1979.

One problem which has recently arisen concerns the registration of space objects. My delegation hopes that consideration of this issue at future sessions of the Legal Subcommittee will lead to discussion on further problems which call for in-depth development in order to identify new areas of cooperation in outer space.

My delegation believes that the Committee could recommend to the General Assembly that the above-mentioned issue be included on the Subcommittee's agenda, on the understanding and subject to the conditions contained in the Subcommittee's report. That report states that the review of the treaties should not result in any revision of these instruments; discussion should be restricted to the next three sessions of the Subcommittee only. The Subcommittee's deliberations on this item should result in a substantive report for submission to COPUOS, containing an analysis of the work carried out on the five treaties as well as recommendations as to how to remedy any problems identified concerning the regulation of international cooperation in outer space.

At the last session of the Subcommittee, a tense discussion took place concerning the question of the geostationary orbit. Certain delegations felt it was necessary to remove this item from the Subcommittee's agenda, arguing that the item had been debated over a period of years with no visible results having been achieved. It was also felt that the ITU was competent to deal with matters concerning access to the geostationary orbit and regulatory activities thereon.

My delegation reiterates its position, already stated during the session of the Subcommittee, that removal of this item from the agenda is not fully justified. Firstly, the ITU is primarily called upon to deal with the technical aspects of the geostationary orbit, and the legal aspects of this issue does not fall within its area of competence. Secondly, the ITU has its own problems as concerns the geostationary orbit: a glaring example of this is the problem of the so-called paper satellites, which has not been solved. The whole procedure for frequency allotment is also a problem, and there is an extraordinary overload in the coordinated frequency bands. The process of coordination among administrations of States is taking years to resolve, in some cases with no success at all.

The above problems hinder the development of communication. In accordance with the documents prepared by the fourth research committee of the ITU, the list of registered orbital positions published by the ITU radiocommunications bureau does not reflect the truly active satellite systems. This means that in fact a high number of paper satellites exist, and this in turn hinders the whole coordination procedure. Furthermore, the planned frequency assignments allotted are not fully utilized, thus representing a frozen reserve of orbital positions and frequencies for countries hoping to make use of them in the future.

Commercialization of the use of the orbital services takes place through the sale of transmitting channels via satellite, as well as *de facto* presentation of orbital positions to other countries. My delegation welcomes the efforts made by the ITU to remedy this situation, but we feel that the problems of the rational use of the geostationary orbit cannot fall outside the purview of COPUOS. The presentation and adoption of the new compromise document, prepared by the German delegation, represent welcome progress and my delegation is ready to work on this draft proposal in a spirit of compromise and cooperation at the current session. We reiterate our position that the rational use of the geostationary orbit should remain an area which falls within the competence of both the Committee and the Legal Subcommittee. Regular reports should continue to be given to the ITU on work carried out.

At this point, as has already been suggested, if a working group is set up to continue discussions on the draft working paper, my delegation would be happy to take part. In stating that the subject of the geostationary orbit should remain on the agenda of the Subcommittee, that is not to say that it should be discussed at each and every Subcommittee session. By the year 2000, for example, the situation could be reviewed and discussion of this subject could take place possibly on a rotational basis. However, the item should remain on the Subcommittee's agenda. At forthcoming sessions of both the Committee and Subcommittee, without re-examining the entire topic of the geostationary orbit, discussions could be restricted to certain issues, such as the conclusions of the World Radiocommunication Conference on the problems of the use of the geostationary orbit in accordance with the existing norms of outer space law.

During past sessions of the Legal Subcommittee, representatives of the ITU have mentioned a series of interesting ideas, such as solving the problem of paper satellites. The results obtained by the ITU would be of interest to both the Committee and the Subcommittee, in

the hope that a positive solution can be found. Consideration could then be given to whether this item should be retained on the agenda and periodically reviewed.

As concerns the use of the geostationary orbit, my delegation feels it is important that we do not lose sight of the fact that the Legal Subcommittee also had before it the working paper submitted by Colombia. Unfortunately, there has not been a full debate on this document in the Subcommittee, but its contents certainly merit more in-depth discussion.

With regard to the delimitation of outer space, it was clear from discussions at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee that many Member States are still interested in this subject and other interrelated matters. So far, 17 replies have been received to the questionnaire on outer space objects circulated by the Secretariat. My delegation regrets that not all Member States of the Committee have replied to this questionnaire, as this hinders the analysis of the responses received. At the Subcommittee's last session, my delegation proposed that on the basis of the replies received and in addition to the analysis of them prepared by the Secretariat, a sound analytical document should also be prepared. However, this work can only be fully effective if as many Member States as possible reply to the questionnaire. Feedback is vital, and we therefore appeal to those delegations present to reconsider the questionnaire and send their replies to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Following the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation would like to recall the informal consultations held by the Chairman of COPUOS, Ambassador Hohenfellner, on many other important issues, in parallel to the official meetings. We especially welcome the decision to retain the principle of consensus, which is essential to the work in the Committee and its Subcommittees. Consensus is the basic and unique principle guiding the adoption of all decisions taken. My delegation welcomes the suggestion to reduce the length of the Legal Subcommittee's sessions to two weeks, subject to the decision on the duration of each session being taken on an individual basis.

My delegation continues to believe that consideration of international space law as concerns the issue of space debris and environmental law is premature at this stage. At the last session of the Subcommittee it was agreed that the formulations in this respect as presented in the Chairman's package proposal should be followed. Again, my delegation would like to reiterate its position that time should be given to space scientists and practitioners in the field to come to terms with this

problem. It is being actively debated, and as has already been suggested, inter-sessional meetings could also be organized. Some controversial points do exist which merit discussion, but before legal experts are consulted and asked to put something in black and white, it is vital to have the requisite scientific input.

In conclusion, my delegation considers the results of the thirty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee to have been most successful. Positive results have emerged as concerns defining future prospects and the possible introduction of some interesting new items for the Subcommittee's agenda. The Subcommittee's report should be adopted and the draft resolution proposed should be forwarded to the General Assembly. The present session of the Committee is also achieving concrete results and we are very close to reaching an acceptable compromise on this revised text proposed by Germany. Sufficient time still remains today and on Monday for us to work on this and to achieve a positive outcome.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. HUANG Huikang (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): I would like to thank you for giving my delegation the opportunity to take the floor again under this item. The Chinese delegation made a statement under agenda item 8 at yesterday's meeting; today we wish to refer to the draft proposal of the German delegation.

At its thirty-sixth session, the Legal Subcommittee held in-depth discussions on the draft working paper proposed by the German delegation and achieved some progress. The German delegation then prepared a revised proposal, but no decision was taken on that document by the Subcommittee. It is now up to COPUOS to deal with this issue. My delegation would like to draw the Committee's attention to annex 1 of the Subcommittee's report. In paragraph 67 it was stated as follows:

"On the question of the GSO, the working group agreed to continue its consideration of the matter. The working group took note of the second revised text of the working paper submitted by Germany set out in annex 2 of the present report of the Subcommittee. The revised text might constitute the basis for the adoption of the draft resolution and the full agreement at the fortieth session of the Committee on the future consideration of the question of the GSO in the Legal Subcommittee."

In this respect my delegation observes that two problems exist. The first is the draft resolution itself. The second question relates to how the Legal Subcommittee will deal with the issue of the geostationary orbit.

The draft resolution put forward by the German delegation comprises two parts: the first relates to the method for further discussions on the geostationary orbit; the second part involves the draft resolution itself. Therefore it is my delegation's view that the two questions are interconnected yet different.

Concerning the resolution itself, most delegations agree that this draft resolution could constitute a basis for adoption by the Committee. Reaching consensus on this issue is within our grasp. As to how to continue consideration of the geostationary orbit, the German delegation had initially proposed that once the draft resolution was adopted, discussion on this item would be concluded. Since the majority of delegations did not agree with this proposal, the German delegation put forward a compromise and agreed that instead of termination of the discussion, suspension of the discussion could apply.

My delegation believes that there is a basic difference involved which concerns the functions of the Committee and the ITU, respectively, and to reach a consensus on this matter will take sometime. My delegation had therefore proposed that the two issues should be discussed separately. If consensus could be reached on the draft resolution itself, COPUOS would be in a position to adopt it. As concerns the possible review of consideration of the question of the geostationary orbit, the Legal Subcommittee should consider this further at its next session.

On the basis of the draft working paper submitted by Germany, amendments can be proposed in order to allow the adoption of this draft resolution by the Committee. My delegation reiterates this suggestion, which we hope will be supported by other delegations.

As concerns how best to address this issue and achieve optimum results, my delegation supports the suggestion made by the delegation of the Russian Federation to form a working group, either formal or informal. We hope COPUOS will reach a final decision on the draft resolution before the end of this session.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. L. ARIZAGA (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): As other delegations have reiterated their

points of view, my delegation also has further comments to make under this agenda item.

One item on the Legal Subcommittee's agenda is that which concerns the definition and delimitation of outer space, and the geostationary orbit. Along with many other States, Ecuador is particularly interested in this subject and has played an active role in discussions on it. We have listened with great interest to the interventions of the Group of 77 and GRULAC, as well as those of many delegations who have reiterated that this subject should remain on the Subcommittee's agenda.

Many delegations, including those of Cuba, Ecuador and Chile, have been quite specific in their desire to retain this subject on the Subcommittee's agenda. It has been clearly stated that it should be neither eliminated nor suspended.

My delegation has examined carefully the draft resolution proposed by Germany and concluded that a certain amount of time is necessary to analyse the implications of the draft resolution. The compromise agreement reached must take account of the positions of all States, as is the custom in our Committee, so that a consensus decision may be taken. My delegation has been involved in discussions with other delegations, including that of Germany, on this subject; we are prepared to continue these discussions, either in the Committee itself or at the next session of the Legal Subcommittee. In its intervention, Ecuador stated that progress had been slow but had nevertheless been achieved. My delegation will continue to take part in such discussions, and would recommend that rather than form a working group, the Secretariat might provide a meeting room so that discussions may continue informally.

My delegation agrees with other delegations that the Committee should not try to rush proceedings to try and save time. We will continue to actively participate in what we hope will be constructive discussions on this important topic.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. SUNG JOO CHOI (Observer, Republic of Korea): My delegation expresses its appreciation for the report of the thirty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee, and notes with satisfaction the central role played by the Committee, since its establishment, in the codification process of outer space activities. As was witnessed concerning the protracted negotiations which

led to the establishment of the Law of the Sea, the establishment of any new legal regime for outer space will require time and patience. This should not however deter us from our task.

Turning to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation firmly believes that the agenda should be enriched in order to allow the Subcommittee to maintain its inherent function of codifying outer space activities. We oppose any proposal to reduce the number of agenda items. Following the adoption of the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interests of All States, taking into particular account the Needs of Developing Countries, there is only one substantial item which remains on the Subcommittee's agenda: the delimitation of outer space and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

These are the reasons why my delegation supports the addition of new items to the agenda. The Legal Subcommittee could start to discuss the issue of space debris while the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continues with its work on this topic. This might provide a kind of synergy effect as concerns the issue. My delegation supports the proposal of the Czech Republic in this respect, as we fear that the issue of space debris could become a major global concern, and the Legal Subcommittee might neglect its efforts to establish the necessary legal order merely because it is felt it is premature to open discussion on it.

As concerns the geostationary orbit, my delegation agrees with other States that the adoption of the draft resolution proposed by Germany should in no way imply the deletion of this issue from the Subcommittee's agenda. We agree with the Colombian delegation that such a decision would be premature at this stage. As concerns the draft resolution proposed by Germany, my delegation supports the suggestion of the Russian Federation that an informal working group should be formed to try and reach a compromise solution during the current session.

The division of labour between the ITU and COPUOS in relation to the geostationary orbit should be split up according to the respective areas of competence of these two bodies. The inherent role of COPUOS is to set out in the legal regime and policy guidelines for outer space, and due account should be taken of this. My delegation does not support any initiative which could result in a weakening of the role of the Legal Subcommittee.

With regard to the definition and delimitation of outer space, my delegation proposes that the momentum initiated by the delegation of the Russian Federation should be maintained by continuing discussion within the Subcommittee, based on replies received to the questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects.

The Legal Subcommittee is a core body of COPUOS, and one could say that the future success of the Committee depends to an extent on the revitalization of the Subcommittee's work. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should also play its part in assisting the Legal Subcommittee to fulfil its mandated role.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Ms. A. BONILLA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation would like to comment on the document concerning the geostationary orbit which was submitted at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee.

The working paper presented by Colombia (document A/AC.105/C.2/L.200) contains the following recommendations. With regard to coordination procedures for the allocation of non-planned radio frequencies using geostationary satellites, countries committed to those processes should bear in mind that access to the geostationary orbit should be given on an equitable basis. When there are equal claims from developing and developed countries alike for access to the same or neighbouring orbital positions, then the developed country should make it possible, through the coordination procedure, for the developing country to have access to the orbital position and frequencies, with the minimum possible restrictions.

The working paper submitted by Colombia states that equitable access to the geostationary orbit is necessary, and that services should be based on the principle of "first come, first served". This regulation can give rise to difficulties in the coordination procedure, leading to costly operational problems, especially for developing countries. This will impede the access of such developing countries to that resource.

The first paragraph of the draft resolution proposed by the German delegation reiterates the general idea contained in Article 44 of the ITU Constitution. However, no mention is made of "the geographical situation of certain countries" which would be covered by this article. This therefore affects the notion of

equitable access and is not useful for services not planned by the ITU which use geostationary orbits [which instead should be based on the principle of preference?]

My delegation has taken note of the statement by the Mexican delegation concerning efforts to intensify cooperation between ITU and the Legal Subcommittee, with a view to identifying new mechanisms for the coordination process and the localization of bands and frequencies not yet allocated by the ITU. The Legal Subcommittee is already working on this issue and should continue its work, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries. In this respect the principle of the ITU of "first come, first served" does not favour the claims made by developing countries for equitable access to the geostationary orbit.

The distinguished representative of Ecuador stated yesterday that a *sui generis* regime is needed to regulate the access to and use of the orbit. My delegation believes that the establishment of such a regime falls under the competence of the Legal Subcommittee, taking due account of the contributions of and work carried out by the ITU. Suspension of this item from the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee would be a retrogressive step in the analysis of this important subject. The methods of work proposed by COPUOS implies neither the elimination or suspension of any items from the Subcommittee's agenda.

My delegation welcomes the important work carried out by the German delegation in presenting the draft working paper. It has revived interest on the part of both the Committee, the Subcommittee and various delegations in seeking a solution to this problem, which is of concern to all Member States. Accordingly, we believe that discussion of this issue must continue with a view to its being considered in greater detail within the Legal Subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Peru.

Mr. L. CABRERA (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation would like to make a brief intervention under this item, particularly as concerns the geostationary orbit. We would like to reiterate that a decision be taken on the draft working paper submitted by the German delegation. Discussion of this issue has demonstrated that a diversity of views exist concerning the achievement of a consensus decision.

The working paper represents a proposal which contains interesting elements, but its discussion and

consideration should not be carried out too hastily. Neither should this item be removed from the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. The ITU plays an important role in this sphere which relates exclusively to the technical aspects of the geostationary orbit; the Legal Subcommittee is competent to examine the legal and political aspects, and to agree on elements which define and establish the guidelines and policies which States must observe in the use of this limited natural resource.

My delegation therefore believes that if we take due account of the working paper submitted by the German delegation, in particular operative paragraph 2, what is stated is that in fact COPUOS should provide information to the ITU, on a periodic basis, on legal and political agreements reached in this Committee and its Subcommittees. This would help to guide the activities of the ITU concerning the technical aspects. This is a crucial point which should be duly taken into account.

In conclusion, my delegation endorses the views expressed by the Group of 77 on the same subject.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Canada.

Mr. S. LESSARD (Canada): Over the past few years, and especially more recently, members of this Committee have devoted significant efforts to improving the working methods of the Committee and its Subcommittees. This culminated in the adoption, at the beginning of this session, of the Chairman's package proposal which was so ably developed by Ambassador Hohenfellner.

These reform measures show that an examination of ways and means to improve our efficiency should not be limited only to adjustments in duration of sessions or more efficient conduct of our deliberations. They should also include a periodic examination of the items on the agenda of the Committee and its Subcommittees, with a view to adding or deleting items as appropriate.

In this context, my delegation would like to recall the consideration by the Legal Subcommittee of ways and means to ensure equitable access to the geostationary orbit. As we all know, this issue has been under discussion for many years, with little apparent prospect for a solution based on consensus in the foreseeable future. In my delegation's view, this is not because resolving the diverse issues and interests involved is not possible. Rather, it is because there appears to be a fundamental disagreement on whether this Committee is the proper forum in which to address this particular issue of the legal status of the geostationary orbit and related

matters of access, in light of the long-standing active involvement of the ITU in this context.

In a spirit of promoting the efficient and rational conduct of discussions on this and other important issues, my delegation believes the ITU is the proper forum for resolving the outstanding issues involved. The ITU has an established practice of dealing with the management of access to the geostationary orbit, and has demonstrated that it can be responsive to the need for enhanced equity of access through its adoption of planning in certain bands. ITU is not merely a technical body; it is a full-fledged United Nations agency with its own political organs, thus allowing for full discussion of relevant issues and consideration of all ideas, including those presented in the paper submitted by Colombia at the thirty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee.

In this context my delegation supports the draft resolution proposed by the German delegation at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee. The adoption of this text would ensure that this Committee's voice is heard concerning how more equitable access to the geostationary orbit can be ensured, while allowing the ITU to take note of this contribution in the implementation of its mandate. This would constitute real progress on the matter in terms of the work of the Legal Subcommittee. It could also allow suspension of discussion of this item in the Legal Subcommittee, with details of the modalities of such suspension to be further discussed and agreed upon by consensus.

My delegation continues to believe that any continuing discussion on this item in the Legal Subcommittee should be on the basis of an appropriate workplan. We believe that the above solution would preserve the right of COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee to voice its opinion on the important issue of access to the geostationary orbit, while ensuring that the proper forum for the implementation of measures is used. In view of the very slow progress, if any, on this matter for too many years, my delegation is convinced that this is the best compromise.

We would therefore urge all delegations to work together and if possible to reach a compromise decision at this session of the Committee as concerns the proposal submitted by Germany. Several delegations have already indicated that this could be done, and Canada will actively participate in any further informal discussions on this issue.

Concerning other topics, my delegation welcomes the addition of a new item to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, "Review of the status of the five

international treaties on outer space". We are prepared to consider additional new items for possible inclusion on the basis of their relevance to the contemporary practice of space activities. Finally, at this point in time my delegation feels there is no need to reopen discussion on the Principles concerning nuclear power sources in outer space. However, examination must continue in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the current state of science and best practices on this matter, leading to possible revision of the Principles at some future date.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico.

Mr. V. ARRIAGA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation has already spoken on this item yesterday and stated its position concerning the working paper submitted by the German delegation. My delegation makes a distinction in the working paper between an introductory section, and the section which contains the draft resolution. We are in favour of maintaining the topic of the geostationary orbit on the Subcommittee's agenda, but at the same time we believe the draft resolution contains important elements to deal with the problem of the use of the radio frequency spectrum and the geostationary orbit.

Given the various proposals put forward today with regard to what action should be taken, my delegation endorses the proposal of the distinguished representative of Ecuador that informal consultations should take place with a view to reaching a solution.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. F. JAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation's intervention on this agenda item supports the views expressed by the Group of 77. The geostationary orbit is an important issue and more substantive discussions are needed on it before any decision is taken. We therefore reiterate the recommendations of Ecuador, the Russian Federation and many other States that this item remain on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic): My delegation appreciates this opportunity to take the floor on this agenda item for the second time. We have already given our observations on the report of the Legal Subcommittee, and I do not wish to repeat what was stated therein.

My delegation would like to refer to one specific point that was made yesterday. This morning the same observation was made by the delegation of the Russian Federation; this concerns our own suggestion to consider the possibility of including a new item on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee entitled "Review of existing norms of international law applicable to space debris". The distinguished representative of the Russian Federation felt the inclusion of this item was premature at this point in time, as the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has not concluded its discussion on this topic. A similar view was expressed yesterday by other delegations.

My delegation feels it is important to reiterate our position on this possible new item. Firstly, we greatly appreciate the work carried out in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the issue of space debris; this work is indispensable, and we look forward to receiving both the report of the Subcommittee and the conclusions of these important discussions. However, there are several legal aspects of the problem of space debris which must be analysed and studied by the Legal Subcommittee.

In the informal background note which we submitted one year ago in the Legal Subcommittee, it was made abundantly clear exactly what questions should be addressed by legal experts. For example, in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention, we have certain definitions of the term "space objects". Therefore, does this definition apply to space debris or not? It is important to analyse this question and to find an answer to it. Do the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty, concerning the avoidance of harmful contamination of outer space and adverse changes in the environment of the Earth, apply to the problem of space debris? Again, this is a legal question. And should the protection of ownership of space objects and of their component parts – as again mentioned in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space – be extended to cover space debris or not?

Another example: should liability for damage caused by space debris to a space object and/or its crew depend on the actual proof, as in the case of a collision of two space objects, in accordance with the wording of the 1972 Liability Convention? I could quote a series of questions such as this, and in fact these questions have been under consideration for many years in different international non-governmental forums. These are questions with serious legal implications, but it seems that this body is somewhat reluctant to deal with them.

And they are questions which can be considered independently of the results of the work carried out by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

This is the substance of my delegation's proposal for the new agenda item, and we would reiterate that consideration of such an item would not imply the drafting of new provisions, but would serve to clarify the issues involved and help to improve the interpretation and application of the existing norms of international space law. These issues have existed for several years and they must be addressed. It is our sincere hope that we are not forced into action due to some eventual accident in outer space, as happened in the past concerning other international legal instruments, such as the 1968 Rescue Agreement. Action in this respect was accelerated due to a serious accident which occurred, and the agreement was concluded in a very short period of time.

My delegation does not see why the Legal Subcommittee has such a limited agenda, which now contains only one or two substantive items. In comparison, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has some ten or eleven substantive items on its agenda which it too has been considering for some years now. Therefore the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee should be enriched to include a number of substantive items which should be discussed, without necessarily implying the conclusion of a further space treaty or set of principles. Such discussions should help to clarify the various situations and put forward proposals as to the interpretation and application of existing international legal instruments relating to space activities.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. P. LOUET (France) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation had not originally intended to make a statement on this item, which seems to be a matter of concern to many delegations. However, having followed the discussions it appears there may be certain misunderstandings, and my delegation would therefore like to reiterate its position on this important matter.

As has already been said, the Legal Subcommittee has been debating this issue for several years without having properly understood the true objectives of some delegations. This is because some of the views expressed are contrary to the texts and instruments which have been adopted and which are still in effect. The delegation of Colombia put forward a proposal which represented one way of reaching an acceptable solution. We would like to pay tribute to the ambassador of Colombia in this context; he is a renowned legal expert, and he has given

us the necessary background to enable discussion on this item to proceed in a positive manner. My delegation regrets that he is not present here today, as he was able to differentiate between what States would like to have, and what was actually possible under the legal provisions.

On the basis of this discussion, the German delegation put forward its own proposal. There is thus now a proposal which addresses problems that have been debated for some length of time. My delegation feels there is considerable support for this proposal. Although some problems still remain for certain delegations, if a solution could be reached the text of this draft resolution could be adopted: one that if done, there is no reason to continue discussing it. The proposal has been revised in response to the concerns expressed by some delegations, and this should put an end to our debate on it.

However, if it is felt that the proposal by the German delegation does not resolve the problems, it should not be adopted and discussion on it should continue. It is a simple decision to take.

The delegation of the Russian Federation stated that certain delegations felt that discussion on the geostationary orbit should cease as it had been on-going for too long a period of time and the ITU is the competent body to deal with this issue. My delegation did not take this position; we stated that if the proposal is adopted, it follows that the concerns of most delegations would have been dealt with; that in itself would necessarily close discussion on the item.

In summary, my delegation did not put this proposal on the table. A text has been proposed; my delegation is not wholly in favour of this text as we feel it conflicts to an extent with the purview of the ITU. However, in a spirit of compromise we are ready to accept it. But we cannot support the position of accepting this text but still continuing with the debate. If the text is still unsatisfactory to some delegations and no consensus agreement can be reached, the text should be put aside and our discussions can then continue.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor under this item? I see none.

We have heard some interesting suggestions and points of view on agenda item 8. Notwithstanding the debate which has taken place, it seems there is still a possibility to reach a solution on the text following consultations. Therefore, as suggested by various delegations, informal consultations will be held on agenda item 8 concerning the working paper submitted

by the German delegation. This will take place immediately after this meeting in Room C-0713. If necessary, these consultations can continue this afternoon.

The suggestion has also been made that, following the informal consultations, a working group be set up on agenda item 8. This working group could meet on Monday morning, 9 June. Delegations will have the opportunity to make statements in the plenary on Monday morning, and the working group would follow immediately afterwards. I hope these arrangements are satisfactory. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. L. ARIZAGA (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation welcomes your proposal to continue with informal consultations following the conclusion of this meeting. Secondly, concerning the setting up of a working group, my delegation feels that this decision should be taken after the results of the informal consultations are known. If necessary, a working group could be formed, but a decision on that should not be taken at this point in time.

The CHAIRMAN: This was in fact what I had stated: the informal consultations will take place following the adjournment of this session. On Monday morning, following the plenary meeting and based on the results of the informal consultations, if necessary a working group could be formed and could meet. But if it is not deemed necessary, there will not be a working group.

Having closed discussion on this item for the time being, we will now continue our discussion of agenda item 10. While noting that the distinguished representatives of Spain and Canada have requested continuation of the discussion of this agenda item on Monday, 9 June, I would like to open this item now to any delegations who wish to make a statement.

Spin-off benefits of space technology (cont.)

The CHAIRMAN: The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of China.

Ms. LIU Xiaohong (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Space technology is a comprehensive engineering technology for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of outer space, and celestial bodies other than the Earth. It is one of the sciences and technologies among today's high technologies which have the greatest impact on modern society.

With rapid advances in space science, space technology and its applications are found more widely than ever in various fields of human production and life, with an impact unattainable by more traditional methods of production. Constant improvement of levels of space technology, expansion of its applications and the full realization of the spin-off benefits of space technology have become priority considerations in sustainable development strategies in various countries.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the development and use of space technology. It is currently applying it widely in such fields as machinery metallurgy, chemical industry, energy, materials, transportation, communication, education and medicine — all of which are yielding remarkable economic and social benefits. Space technology has also been applied in disaster prediction and estimation, geological prospecting, topographic mapping, crop growth and yield estimation, broadcasting, television and other areas.

Apart from the development of space technology and its applications, my Government also attaches considerable importance to the secondary development of space technology and the development of its space industry through peaceful uses of military technology and vigorous implementation of its conversion strategy. Conversion of space science and technology into actual productivity has yielded increasingly noticeable benefits. For example, transplantation or extension of single special technologies to other basic industries has had a significant impact on the development of those industries. This in turn has led to a better working environment, energy savings, productivity increases and scientific and technological progress.

My delegation would like to give an illustration of a current space technology and conversion programmes, their application in the national economy and their spin-off benefits in China.

As concerns conversion, the strong demand for space technology development has driven the development of electronics technology to higher levels in China. The present emergence of large-scale integrated circuitry and 100 million operations per second computers is closely linked to the needs of the space industry. At the same time, the transfer of space and military technology to non-space fields and civilian industries has helped to promote the application and development of soft science and technology in China.

To date, China has applied the experience of systems engineering management in space technology in

such fields as population studies, state price subsidies, and optimum design for national economic development. It has provided quantitative bases for national economic development and economic reforms through forecasts of future economic development trends using supercomputers. Software kits have been designed by the space industry by drawing on the experience of systems engineering management and through large-scale mathematical models and mixed calculational simulations. These have helped to solve power supply control and coordination problems in power grids in north-eastern China. Power supply there has thus been boosted by between 2 and 3 per cent.

Drawing on experience in systems engineering management, China's space industry has also developed night vision visual control systems for Qingdao and Dalian port authorities, bringing tangible economic benefits to port management.

In the area of disaster prediction and assessment, by using meteorological data from satellites, China has been able to accurately forecast heavy torrential rain in Sichuan, southern Shanxi, Liaoning, Jilin and other provinces, thus preventing huge losses. In the case of the torrential rain in Sichuan province and the dilemma of whether to proceed with flood diversion on the Jijiang River, analyses of satellite meteorological data provided the basis for a decision not to divert the flood. This avoided the flooding of 600 mu of farm land and the relocation of 400,000 people, and reduced losses by some 700 million Yuan.

With regard to broadcasting and communications, China has started TV and broadcasting satellite transmission from Beijing to every part of the country, and telephone satellite communication between Beijing and remote border provinces, as well as cities such as Tibet, Chengdu, Xinjiang and Lanzhou. What would one have required a 1 billion Yuan investment in conventional technology only cost 100 million Yuan, through the use of space technology, giving an investment ratio of 1:10.

As concerns transportation, the satellite rail traffic control system set up in China has shortened intervals between trains; instead of 8 to 9 minutes, it is now 3 to 4 minutes, with double carriage capacity. On the Beijing-Shanghai line alone, to build multiple tracks by conventional methods would cost 10.23 billion Yuan, whereas a train control system via satellite would cost only 1 billion Yuan.

Turning to the question of geological prospecting and topographic mapping, interpretation of a single

satellite image allowed completion of a geological structural map of the Chaidamu Basin and other areas and discovered geographical faults missed by earlier geological surveys. This would have required nine man/years of a geological prospecting team. One hundred professionals, using satellite imagery in conjunction with aerial surveys, completed terrestrial and marine analyses of the whole country in only two years, and mapped farm land, forests, grasslands, water, population distribution and land use. A project of this magnitude would otherwise have involved some 100,000 people and cost 100 million Yuan.

Since 1986, as concerns agriculture and fisheries, China has been monitoring winter wheat growth in 11 northern provinces and cities by satellite. It has been able to forecast the total yield one to three months in advance with 95 per cent accuracy. The Hebei province has been able to accurately forecast crop yield by using satellites, and has saved 60 million Yuan on food transportation alone. By guiding fishing with meteorological satellite data, within a short space of some seven months the city of Qingdao saw the fish catch increase 4.46-fold for purse net, and by at least 28 per cent for single net over the same period as the previous year.

The above examples are but a few examples of the practical applications of space technology in China, showing that application and transfer of space technology have wide-ranging and notable benefits for society as a whole. Research and development of space technology is therefore a common enterprise of humanity. Promotion of sustainable development in the field of outer space and expansion of the scope of space applications means that countries should increase cooperation. States must learn from and complement each other, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication and waste, and obtaining the maximum results from the limited resources of humanity.

To this end, China's space community is ready to strengthen cooperation with its counterparts in other countries in expanding the scope of space applications. My delegation hopes that the technologically advanced space-faring nations can help other countries, in particular the developing countries, to make greater contributions to improved quality of life and to further sustainable development for society as a whole.

The CHAIRMAN: The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of India.

Mr. G. NAIR (India): Space technology and its applications are multidisciplinary in nature. Developments in space technology are not merely the result of

the use of advances in several other fields, but are the impetus for such advances.

The demands of space projects in terms of miniaturization, automation, weight and power optimization, use of new materials and rigorous quality control techniques are very high, and these techniques have many spin-off benefits in other areas.

My delegation would like to tell the Committee about the status of developments in the Indian Space Programme regarding the promotion of spin-off benefits. The Indian Space Programme encourages the participation of industries in space projects and applications. Of the 227 technologies so far transferred to industries, 90 technologies pertain to products and systems used in direct space applications in the field of space communications, television broadcasting, meteorology and remote sensing applications. Spin-off products and services number 129, an even higher figure.

These spin-off products and services are spread over several disciplines, such as polymers and chemicals, electro-optic instruments, computer software, mechanical systems and electronic equipment. The knowhow is transferred on a promotional basis and industries are encouraged to update the technologies of these products through their own innovations. Several measures towards the promotion of spin-offs are being carried out, notably dissemination of pamphlets on the new technologies developed, publication of articles in professional and trade journals, exhibitions, organization of visits to research and development centres, market surveys and so on.

Another significant aspect of space technology applications is its potential to offer new opportunities for entrepreneurs and industries. Such spin-off potential is possible in both the social and commercial applications of space.

In the social fields, my delegation would like to quote the experience of a recent project undertaken in a Central Indian state, for the use of space communications and remote sensing. This project, the Jabhua Development Communications Project, is carried out in a predominantly tribal district, where the literacy rate is low. Programmes aimed at improving literacy, watershed development, family welfare and hygiene are telecast via the INSAT satellite to 150 villages where community direct television receiver sets are installed.

The novel feature in this experiment is the facility for interaction of the villages with experts elsewhere in the country through the talk-back facilities available at

several major centres. The project aims to study feasibility and cost effectiveness of such technologies for rural development, and its spin-off benefits are the tremendous demand for generation of software which will prove effective in the location of application. That effort has to combine art and creativity with modern education, while at the same time aiming to preserve the high values of local culture.

Turning to the spin-offs in the commercial area, the potential for value added services in the field of remote sensing applications merits attention. In India over 50 entrepreneurs have been developed in the commercial sector, in order to promote and exploit the potential of remote sensing applications. These entrepreneurs are typically small but highly professional organizations. They fall under various categories in the chain of providing value added services. They could be the solution providers, service providers, promoters, facilitators, enablers or collaborators.

The application of space-based remote sensing data, combined with their traditional skills, could lead to market opportunities such as planning national parks, ground water prospecting, site evaluation for new projects, performance evaluation of irrigated command areas, digital terrain model applications, preparation of forest management plans, environmental impact analysis prior to initiating development projects, alignment of pipelines, surveys for new highway development, etc.

Continued cooperation in exchange of information as well as in the development of spin-off benefits could bring greater benefits from advances in space technology on a sustainable basis. My delegation appreciates the efforts of various space agencies in promoting such cooperation. In conclusion, a brochure on spin-offs from space is available for those delegates who are interested.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Romania.

Mr. M.-I. PISO (Romania): My delegation would like to make a brief statement concerning the spin-off benefits of space.

As we have already stated, space programmes produce not only technical but also structural spin-off benefits which have influenced human society at the structural level. Space communications, global positioning systems and Earth observation systems have generated the infrastructure for the information highway. Space activities have offered a new method of

international cooperation, contributing to the setting up of global security and cooperation concepts.

Space programmes have also offered opportunities for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary activities by bringing together projects and professionals from a wide range of interests and qualifications. This gives developing countries access to space, not only for its applications but also from the scientific and technical viewpoint.

In this context, my delegation would like to recall that the report of the thirty-ninth session of the Committee stated that in promoting spin-off benefits and effective space applications, it was important that the capacity to understand the technology and to develop it were considered to be of primary importance. The Committee agreed that developing countries should enhance their potential for basic and advanced research in order to promote capacity building for space applications, and to benefit from spin-offs of space technology.

Regarding the promotion of basic and advanced space research by those countries which are developing their space potential, my delegation believes it is important that these countries are able to develop independent research programmes. This would enable them, firstly, to upgrade their capabilities to reach the standard international level with at a pace which they themselves would determine, and secondly, to make optimum use of their indigenous human and infrastructural capacity.

My delegation would appreciate it if a reference to the goals set out in this statement could be included in the final report of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: As I have mentioned, discussion of agenda item 10 will continue on Monday in accordance with the requests of the distinguished representatives of Spain and Canada. If there are any other delegations wishing to speak on this item, they may do so now. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Canada.

Mr. S. LESSARD (Canada): My delegation has a simple clarification to make: it is possible that we may be in a position to make our statement on this agenda item this afternoon, but it may also be Monday.

The CHAIRMAN: Our time this afternoon will be devoted to informal consultations, and therefore the continuation of our discussion on agenda item 10 will be on Monday morning.

Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, as well as Preparations by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Third UNISPACE Conference (cont.)

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that, as a result of the informal consultations held concerning agenda item 9(b), a draft report has just been circulated, "Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations UNISPACE Conference". I am pleased to note that a text has been agreed upon in the informal consultations. This will be taken up in the draft report paragraph by paragraph on Monday. Therefore discussion of agenda item 9(b) is closed for the time being unless there are delegations wishing to speak.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Morocco.

Ms. S. OTMANI (Morocco) (interpretation from French): As concerns the draft report, my delegation would like the following paragraph to be added [continues in English]:

"The Secretariat and Member States should take steps to encourage the participation of high-level decision makers in the Conference, particularly from developing countries which could benefit from the use of space technology in their economic and social development programmes."

(interpretation) My delegation had emphasized this kind of participation in the course of the general debate, as we feel it would be beneficial to all States, and this is why we would request that this paragraph be included in the draft report.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take this matter up on Monday when we begin our consideration of the draft report on Monday, and try to incorporate the paragraph at that time. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. L. ARIZAGA (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation welcomes the draft report which has just been circulated. We have some comments on document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 under (12), which refers to promotion of international cooperation.

My delegation appreciates the acceptance of the proposal on this subject. We would merely like to request that the exact language used in the annotated provisional agenda for UNISPACE III be added.

The CHAIRMAN: The wording will be taken from the annotated provisional agenda, as you have suggested.

As a draft text has been agreed, we will close our discussion on this item for the present and continue with our discussion of agenda item 11.

Other matters (cont.)

The CHAIRMAN: There are no delegations on the list of speakers for this item. Can I take it that we can therefore conclude our discussion on this item? *It is so decided.*

I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Committee, but before doing so I would like to clarify our schedule of work for the rest of today and Monday. Immediately following this meeting, informal consultations will take place on agenda item 8, concerning the working paper submitted by the German delegation, and these consultations will continue this afternoon. This meeting will be held in Room C-0713.

Agenda items 8 and 10 will remain open for discussion on Monday. Based on the results of the informal consultations, a working group may be formed if necessary to continue discussion of agenda item 8. This also allows sufficient time today to enable the Secretariat to start to prepare the draft report of the Committee.

On Monday morning we will open our meeting with the special presentation by the delegations of Spain and Canada under agenda item 10. The results of the informal consultations on agenda item 8 will be announced, and if necessary, a working group will be formed. Delegations will then be given the opportunity to make statements in the plenary. Following this, the Committee will take up its consideration of the draft report.

As in previous sessions, we will first consider the draft at an informal session. Once that consideration is complete, the report will be adopted in the plenary session.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. P. DZIOUBENKO (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): My delegation may wish to speak on agenda item 10 on Monday. Bearing in mind that the results of today's informal consultations may not be conclusive, it may be necessary to convene a formal

working group on Monday to consider the draft proposal submitted by the German delegation.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are any delegations wishing to speak on agenda item 10 on Monday, this item will be open. Based on the results of the informal consultations under agenda item 8, a working group may be formed if necessary on Monday. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): As concerns a clarification on document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4, one delegation has suggested an addition to that document. My delegation is a little confused as to what documents the Committee itself is adopting, and what documents are for information purposes only. We would request some clarification from the Secretariat as concerns document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4 in relation to the draft report of the Preparatory Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask Dr. Jasentuliyana to provide a clarification on this point.

Mr. N. JASENTULIYANA (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs; Deputy Director-General, United Nations Office at Vienna): Document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4 was discussed during informal consultations. It is my understanding that document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 reflects those discussions in the Committee which were agreed upon at the informal consultations. This document is also referred to in the draft report of the Preparatory Committee.

The delegation of Ecuador mentioned that in document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1, the text does not match that which was used in the annotated provisional agenda; that delegation would like to see the latter text included. It is my understanding that document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 is referred to in the text of the draft report already agreed upon informally, as outlined in paragraph 8. This text will be modified to take into account the request of the delegation of Ecuador.

The draft text agreed upon during the informal consultations will then be taken up on Monday, when it will be available in all languages.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America): It was my delegation's understanding that A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 had been agreed to in the

informal consultations. Perhaps what is outlined is just a technical adjustment, but my delegation would need to look at the actual text. We would therefore like to reserve our opinion on the addition proposed by the delegation of Ecuador until we have had the opportunity to look at the text itself.

Mr. N. JASENTULIYANA (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs; Deputy Director-General, United Nations Office at Vienna): It is my understanding that this draft report, in all languages, as well as document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 referred to in the draft report, will be taken up for discussion on Monday. Any amendments or any matters which require investigation will be taken up by delegations on Monday. At present, this is only an informally agreed upon text.

The suggestion by the delegation of Ecuador is to include the actual text agreed upon during the meeting of the Advisory Committee, which did not appear to present a problem. In any event, this can be finalized on Monday.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Japan.

Ms. K. KATO (Japan): My delegation does not wish to prolong the discussion, but we would like to draw the Committee's attention to the following. From yesterday's informal consultations, my delegation's understanding was that a new document, No. 12, was introduced instead of the notes.

As we understand it, the proposal by Ecuador is to reflect the two paragraphs of agenda item 7(d) in the text. If this proposal is reflected in the report, there might be a duplication of the second paragraph and the notes contained in document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico.

Mr. V. ARRIAGA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation too does not wish to prolong the discussion, but it would seem that in order to assist in

guiding different delegations as to what the proposal by Ecuador represents, perhaps through the Chair the delegation of Ecuador could be requested to state specifically which paragraph is referred to in document A/AC.105/672.

My delegation believes that this document contains important elements which should be incorporated in document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Ecuador.

Mr. L. ARIZAGA (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The point my delegation wishes to make is that item 7(d) of the annotated provisional agenda for UNISPACE III refers to the promotion of international cooperation. The language which is used in document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 reflects the first sentence of item 7(d) but not the second sentence, which reads that there would be a review of the current status of the law of outer space, including ways and means of promoting wider adherence to the existing international space treaties and principles.

If the language of this second sentence was included, as approved by all delegations during the Advisory Committee, then the note in document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.1 would be withdrawn. This is the point which has been made by the distinguished representative of Japan. This was our only point, which we hope will not cause any major problems as it is a text which has already been adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to suggest that interested delegations should consult with each other to agree upon the text. In this connection, I would request the distinguished representative of Ecuador to contact those delegations who have made statements to ensure that we have a text which is agreed by all parties.

There being no further requests for the floor, the Committee is adjourned until 10 a.m. on Monday morning.

The sitting adjourned at 12.30 p.m.